From the Editor

Many people envision information-age warfare as precise, antiseptic, elegantly woven operations. After all, lasers, satellite communications and digital command promise commanders broader perspective, deeper insight, more time and clearer judgment. New technologies even connect dislocated forces through reachback, remotely piloted vehicles and long-range fire support. But if it is war, someone somewhere will still die, and even live video footage cannot fully capture the terror and confusion at the tip of the spear. Information superiority may enhance effectiveness but, at best, only reduces the killing.

Like all technologies, these new weapons and systems harness tremendous power and saddle users with vulnerabilities predictable and unforeseen. Signals from navigation satellites can be easily and inexpensively jammed; immature hackers or malicious attackers can cripple an automated Army; but there is no turning back to some fanciful good old days. The response is not to smash the GPS receiver and worship the 1/50,000 map. Although the Army has committed not just to modernization but digitization, the supporting imperatives are remarkably familiar: Sound doctrine. Realistic training. Redundancy. Human leadership tempered with vision, caution and courage.

Authors in this issue properly treat information and its new associations as tools, not as self-contained solutions. Topics therefore range from emerging doctrine and routine training to simulations, artificial intelligence, and command and control procedures. Make no mistake: as the Army transforms, the most remarkable developments are not found among processes or gigagadgets but within the soldiers who use them. Keep writing to preserve and share your experiences.

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